

**Emerging Communities From East to West:
Case study of the Iranian Community
in Sydney, Australia**

By

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With love to Maryam who with her strength has searched as a young girl, a wife, and a mother for freedom, justice and security, and has undergone the hardship of the asylum seeking and refugee process. Being an honored witness of her experience has given me an insight to the many minute obstacles, the pain, sorrow and achievements of similar people - many who endure silently and courageously in isolation. Her life became my biggest motivation for research in this field as well as for the development of this thesis in which I hope to raise awareness and find answers and solutions.

Certificate

I certify that the work produced in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree, nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged within the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been researched and written by me. Any help that I have received for this thesis and my research work, from preparation to the completion of the thesis itself, has been acknowledged.

In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are identified in the thesis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. The signature is stylized, with the first part resembling 'M.S.' and the second part resembling 'Gholamshahi'.

Soheyla M. Gholamshahi

Table of Contents

Part One

1.	Table of contents	4
2.	Acknowledgement	13
3.	Tables	15
4.	Figures	16
5.	Maps	16
6.	Abbreviations	17
7.	Abstract	18

Part Two

Chapter One

Introduction	20
1.1 General Overview	20

Chapter Two

Methodology and research questions	29
2.1 Research Questions	29
2.2 Overall Methodological Frame	29
2.3 Specific case study methodology	34
2.4 Obstacles	41

Chapter Three

Literature Review: Immigration and Ethnicity	44
3.1 Introduction	44
3.2 Migration as a positive move	47
3.3 Migration by definition	47
3.4 Migration in the modern world	48
3.5 Globalisation and immigration	51
3.5.1 Population movement in the 'global' world	51
3.5.2 Intersection of globalisation and migration	56
3.5.3 General theory of 'globalism' from a political perspective	56
3.5.4 Global trade	60
3.6 Modern society	62
3.7 Racism	66

3.7.1	Traditional societies and the concept of the ‘others’	66
3.7.2	Race and racism	68
3.7.3	Racial discrimination	70
3.7.4	Racial practices: Old and new racism	72
3.8	Culture and ethnicity	74
3.8.1	Culture and cultural belonging	74
3.8.2	Ethnicity and identity	76
3.8.3	Ethnicity-related issues	80
3.8.4	Europe and the rise of ‘neo-racism’	81
3.8.5	Negativity and fear towards ethnicity	82
3.8.6	Ethnic attachment	84
3.8.7	Ethnic mobility entrapment	85
3.8.8	Ethnic enclave economy	86
3.8.9	Ethnic transnationals	87
3.9	New immigrant communities and social capital	89
3.9.1	Why social capital?	89
3.9.2	What is social capital?	91
3.9.3	The importance of social capital for the purposes of this study	93
3.9.4	Social ties: Networks and network function	95
3.9.5	Variety of social networks and ties	96
	3.9.5.1 Kinship networks	97
	3.9.5.2 Strong and weak ties	97
	3.9.5.3 Individual and group ties	98
	3.9.5.4 Thin and thick network connections	98
	3.9.5.5 Formal and informal networks	99
	3.9.5.6 Diaspora networks and ties	99
	3.9.5.7 Cyberspace and cyber networks	99
	3.9.5.8 Other types of networks: large, small, loose, tight, local and distant	100
3.10	Bonding and bridging	101
3.11	Criticisms and downfall of social capital	101
3.12	Feminist analysis	102
3.13	Politics of social capital	104
	3.13.1 State and liberalism	104
	3.13.2 Social capital and ethnic minority groups	105
3.14	Conclusion	106

Chapter Four

Literature Review: Immigrant Settlement	110
4.1 Introduction	110
4.2 Migration history and diaspora (slave, convict and refugee) communities	112
4.2.1 Characteristics of ‘diasporic communities’	112
4.2.2 Diasporic communities and globalisation	114
4.3 Migration in the modern world	114
4.4 Migration and the state’s role	117

4.4.1	Nation, welfare and Nordic states	118
4.4.2	Multicultural societies	121
4.4.3	Third-way	123
4.5	Globalisation, migration and global cities	124
4.6	Global migration, movement of social capital and role of networks	125
4.7	Migration's impact on globalisation	126
4.8	Intersection of globalisation, migration and racism	126
4.9	Intersection of migration, racism and citizenship	127
4.10	New rise of racism	128
4.11	Methodological frame to combat racism	130
4.12	Institutional racism	130
4.13	New racism in the global context	131
4.14	Australia and racism	131
4.15	Conclusion	133

Chapter Five

Australian Migrant's Settlement Process: An historical review	135
5.1 Introduction	135
5.2 England (Motherland) and migration	138
5.3 English migration to Australia	139
5.3.1 English woman and child migration to Australia	139
5.4 Australia and 'others'	141
5.4.1 Gold rush	141
5.4.2 Indigenous population: The real Australian	142
5.5 'White' Australia and the 'White Australia' policy	142
5.6 Assimilation	143
5.7 Integration	144
5.8 WWII and migration	145
5.8.1 Refugee groups from Europe: A new category for 'White' Australia to consider	145
5.8.2 Reason for larger 'intakes'	147
5.8.3 How 'White' Australian immigration policies opened the gate for 'others' after WWII	150
5.8.4 How new groups of migrants faced the 'intakes' in their settlement	152
5.9 'Refugee category' accepted as part of the migratory group 'intake': Who are refugees? Why are they here?	153
5.10 Review of contemporary migrants' settlement process in Australia	161
5.11 Turning points in the recent history of migration and settlement process in Australia	162
5.11.1 Second World War and refugees' settlement process	162
5.11.2 NESB migrants, refugees and asylum seekers' settlement process after 1970	164
5.12 Multiculturalism and multicultural policies: The Australian and overseas models and experiences	166
5.12.1 A comparison between the 'Australian Community Model' as an example of the 'Classical Country of Immigration' and the 'European Ethnic Minorities Group Model'	168

5.12.2 Multiculturalism under the magnifying glass: Debatable multiculturalism	169
5.12.3 Negative aspects of multiculturalism in Australia	171
5.12.4 Positive aspects of multiculturalism	176
5.12.5 Inclusion and Australian Labour Party	179
5.12.6 Coalition government and exclusion: The policy impact, 1996 onwards	180
5.12.7 Migration intake after September 11, 2001	181
5.12.8 Ethnic communities or 'others' forever?	183
5.13 Highlights and challenges of the Australian multiculturalism experience	184
5.13.1 'Access and Equity'	184
5.13.2 'Two-year waiting period'	187
5.14 Conclusion	188

Chapter Six

Ethnic Minority Groups and the Settlement Process in Australia	192
6.1 Introduction	192
6.2 Ethnic minority groups as marginalised and disadvantaged migrants	193
6.3 Newly arrived, small/emerging communities and their characteristics'	195
6.4 Ethnic minority communities and survival mechanisms	203
6.5 Ethno-specific networks: A coping mechanism	203
6.6 Are exclusion and racism in Australia, protected or covered up in the political and social welfare system?	205
6.7 Coalition government and restructuring process	207
6.8 Changes to the Australian residency and citizenship tests: Further inclusion or exclusion?	210 253
6.9 Growth of ethnic community groups after post-war migration in Australia	213
6.10 Bonding networks and 'ties' function for displaced people and post-war migrants	214
6.11 Networks and expanded ties: The impact on ethnic community formation	216
6.12 Bridging networks and ties, pioneer migrants and 'Change Agents'	217
6.13 Ethnic community leaders and the move towards community organisations and associations	220
6.14 Ethnic community mobilisation	223
6.15 Do not bring your problem to Australia	227
6.16 Conclusion	228

Chapter Seven

The Iranian Community in Sydney, Australia	230
7.1 Case study research questions	230
7.1.1 Introduction	230
7.2 Iran: A Middle Eastern country located in Asia	236
7.2.1 Geographic and demographic characteristics of Iran	237
7.3 Why Iranians were selected for the case study?	238
7.4 Iranians community profile in Australia	247
7.4.1 Iranian-Australians: Demographic information	249
7.4.2 Cultural diversity among Iranians	266

7.4.3	Iranian-Australians as an emerging/small community	268
7.5	Research findings: The Iranian community in Sydney, Australia	272
7.5.1	How did the Iranian wave of migration started?	277
7.5.2	Settlement of Iranians in Australia	285
7.5.2.1	Why Australia as chosen migration destination?	285
7.6	Community infrastructure	292
7.6.1	Ethno-specific community based organisations	292
7.6.2	Iranian community and ethnic media	307
7.6.3	Iranian-Australian's community and internal division	309
7.6.4	Iranian community leadership, representation and political mobilisation	311
7.6.5	Gender issues, relationships and marital status among Iranian-Australians	314
7.6.6	Family expectations	325
7.6.7	Marriage and family values	326
7.6.8	Losses, achievements and contributions	331
7.6.9	Emerging issues for Iranian community members in Sydney, Australia	333
7.6.10	Discrimination and racism	338
7.6.11	The role and impacts of 'networks': How Iranian community members create their coping mechanisms	343
7.6.12	Networking history at a glance among Iranians	344
7.6.13	Extended family system and networking	346
7.7	Conclusion	350

Chapter Eight

Conclusion	359
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Part Three

A. Appendices	375
Appendix 1	375
A. Australian Multicultural Policies	375
B. Australian Multicultural Settlement Policies	376
Appendix 2	377
Directory of consulted and reviewed services	377
Appendix 3	378
CALD Communities and Political Mobilisation: Settled Ethnic Communities (Italian Background)	378

Appendix 4	379
Instructions for the Ethics Application	379
4.1 Ethics Application	380
4.2 Language and Cultural Considerations	398
4.3 Approval letter and number	400
4.4 Consent form	401
4.5 Information sheet	402
4.6 Translated version of invitation in “Persian”	403
4.7 Interview questions	404
4.7.1 Interview questions for community members	404
4.7.2 Services and service providers’ interview	408
Appendix 5	410
ICO Promotional materials such as flyer, newsletter, etc.	410
Appendix 6	412
“Iranian Welfare Association’s Constitution, Aims and Objectives” (1988)	412
Appendix 7	414
Interaction with mainstream (bridging)	414
Appendix 8	415
Minutes of ICO Advisory Committee 13 December 1999 and 6 March 2000	415
Appendix 9	416
Iranian Community Profile	416
A. Iranian migrants to Australia and year of arrival	416
B. Language by proficiency and sex	416
C. Qualification by sex	416
D. Income by sex	417
E. Education and sex James Jupp (1991: 11)	417
G. Home ownership and tenant type by sex	417
H. Marriage	418
I. Occupation by sex	418
Appendix 10	419
A. Human Rights Declaration: Articles	419
B. Human Rights Declaration in support of the right of religious dress – freedom to wear the hijab (headscarf)	420
C. Human Rights Declaration of Cultural Diversity	421
Appendix 11	422
Identification of settled and integrated communities by James Jupp (1991: 11)	422
Appendix 12	423

Funding Application	423
B. Media Review Section	424
Media Review	425
'Others' from the eyes of the Anglo Saxon/Celtic Australian: Who are they?	426
1. Public images and portrayal of migrants as 'others'	427
2. Government and organisational restrictions against the 'others'	427
3. Restrictions and racist ban against 'others'	428
4. Gender and cultural war against 'others': Scarf, veil, hijab through fundamentalism	429
5. The rise of negativity against Islam and Muslims targeting these community members	429
6. Iraq war: An additional excuse for increased hatred against Muslims and Middle Eastern	430
7. The old religious antagonism: Effective excuses legitimising hatred, confrontation and rejection of 'others'	430
8. Iraq war: Response to September 11	431
9. Government and its role in directing existing and increasing conflicts against Middle Eastern and Muslim communities	431
10. Put the blame on 'others'	432
11. The reality of Government authority's concerns	432
12. Government's use of the anti-migration movement	433
13. Win the votes	433
14. Election, TAMPA and Howard's Government	434
15. Lies about TAMPA Immigration	434
16. The 'Truth' revealed behind the TAMPA case	435
17. Government cut back in social welfare funding	435
18. 'Terror Act' or restrictions of civil rights	435
19. Is 'Big Brother' watching us now?	435
20. Various reactions by community members towards the rise of new racism in Australia	436
21. Role of community leaders (including ethnic leaders) towards increasing conflicts in Australia	436
22. What about 'Human Rights'?	437
23. Refugee rights	438
24. Asylum seekers and bridge of human rights	438
25. Expansion of the detention centres in Australia: Villawood Detention Centre	438
26. Definition of the Howard Coalition Government of human rights in Australia	439
27. Which country and ethnic community makes a good target?	440
28. Access the nuclear power	440
29. Is 'invasion' acceptable and what legitimises 'invasion'?	441
30. Asylum seekers from Iran: Are they genuine refugees in Australia?	441

31. Increased public hatred towards ethnic minorities in Australia	442
32. The Sydney Riot: How it started?	442
33. Was the 'Sydney Riot' an organised incident?	443
34. Ethnic conflict out of control	444
35. Community response: In favour or against	444
36. Growth of the worldwide 'anti West' movement among the 'others': Nationally and internationally	445
37. Religious insult: Cartoon of Prophet Mohammad act as a trigger	446
38. Can 'others' tolerate Australian values and system?	447
39. The Middle Eastern image	447
40. Are 'others' thankful enough?	448
41. A vicious circle: Are the 'others' a burden on government and society?	448
42. Should Australian Government be concerned about the public opinion?	449

C. Bibliography

450

Part One

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Tables, figures and maps

Table 1	Australian Wheat Export – Major Destinations	60
Table 2	Merchandise Exports and Imports, by country and country group	61
Table 3	Numbers in Detention as at 11 August 2006	158
Table 4	Unlawful Population Flow	159
Table 5	Humanitarian Program Categories 1999-2004	160
Table 6	The impact of the humanitarian ‘intake’ by DIMA’s intake for different categories from 1999-2004	160
Table 7	Components of Net Overseas Migration (NOM) (‘000) 1983-2000	165
Table 8	Migration Program Statistics by Category: 1999-00 to 2003-04	170
Table 9	Person by core activity need for assistance (person born in Iran by the LGA and state)	198
Table 10	Australian Population by all states and territories, Ancestry and language, Census 2001	215
Table 11	Permanent Iranian Arrivals to Sydney statistical Division by Calendar Year of Arrival and Migration Stream 1 January 2000 to 4 December 2007	249
Table 12	Iranian community population in Australia (Census 2001)	251
Table 13	Iranian community population in Australia (Census 2006)	251
Table 14	Proficiency in English among the Iranian Community populations in Sydney, Australia (Census 2006)	253
Table 15	Private Dwellings among the Iranian community populations in Sydney, Australia (Census 2006)	254
Table 16	Individual Income (weekly) among the Iranian community population in Sydney, Australia (Census 2006)	255
Table 17	Highest Qualification among the Iranian community population in Sydney, Australia (Census 2006)	256
Table 18	Iranian Community members’ distribution by residency in LGA	262
Table 19	LGA of residence by calendar year of visa issue: Report to PRECNA01, State: NSW	263
Table 20	Offshore and Onshore Grants for July-March 2005-2006 including Visa grants (72,342)	264
Table 21	Humanitarian Arrival in the LGA by country of birth 2001-2006	265
Table 22	Top 10 Local Government Areas for Humanitarian arrivals NSW 2001-2006	265
Table 23	Iran: Country of birth by migration stream and Local Government Area for Northern Sydney settlers arriving from 01 July 1999 to 30 June 2004	266
Table 24	Former Nationality, People Granted Australian citizenship 1999-2000	270
Table 25	Overseas Arrival and Departure: Reasons for journey by category of Traveller persons travelling to Iran (1996-1998)	289
Table 26	Overseas Arrival and Departure: Reasons for journey by	290

Table 27	category of Traveller persons travelling to Iran (2000-2002) Overseas Arrival and Departure: Reasons for journey by category of Traveller persons travelling to Iran (2004-2006)	291
Table 28	Registered Marital Statuses among the Iranian Population in Sydney, Australia (Census 2006)	324
Table 29	Social Marital Status among the Iranian Population in Sydney, Australia (Census 2006)	325
Table 30	Marriage and Inter-Marriage among the Iranian Population in Sydney, Australia (Census 2006)	330

Figures

Figure 1	Transcription Process	43
Figure 2	Cultural ties and social capital	88
Figure 3	Social Ties and Networking	96
Figure 4	Population in immigration detention	157
Figure 5	Detainee's Caseload by Arrival Type as at 11 August 2006	157
Figure 6	Detainees by Location at 11 August 2006	158

Maps

No: 1	Australian Defence Force, Overseas operations 2004-05	59
No: 2	Iran: Geographical location	237
No: 3	Flow of Asylum seekers from the sending countries to Australia	284

Abbreviations

A & E	Access and Equity
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics,
AMES	Adult Migrant Education Services
APEC	Asian Pacific Economic Corporation Forum (APEC)
BIR	Bureau of Immigration Research
CALD	Cultural and Linguistically Diverse
CEAPS	Community Based Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement
CES	Commonwealth Employment Services
CRC	Community Relations Commission
CRSS	Community Refugee Settlement Scheme
CSS	Community Settlement Services
DEET	Department of Employment, Education and Training
DIAC	Department of Immigration And Citizenship
DILGEA	Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs
DIMA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
DIMIA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
EAPS	Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement
ECC	Ethnic Community Council
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
FECCA	Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia
FMO	Forced Migration Online
GST	Goods and Services Tax
HREOC	Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
ICO	Iranian Community Organisation
ID	Identification Details
LAC	Legal Aid Commission
LEAPS	Local Government Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement
LGA	Local Government Area
LOTE	Language Other Than English
MRC	Migrant Resource Centre
MRO	Migrant Resource Organisation
NCCOS	National Council of Social Services
NESB	Non-English Speaking Background
NG	Non-Government
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NOOSR	National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition
OMA	Office of Multicultural Affairs
RACS	Refugee Advice and Casework Service
RCOA	Refugee Council of Australia
RRT	Refugee Review Tribunal
SAC	Special Assistance Category
SHP	Special Humanitarian Program
SMH	Sydney Morning Herald
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
TIS	Telephone and Interpreting Services
TPV	Temporary Protection visa
UNHCR	United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees
WSAHS	Western Sydney Area Health Services

Abstract

Small/emerging and recently arrived ethnic communities in Sydney, Australia are increasingly the subject of national exclusion and racial discrimination. The attacks on the World Trade Centre in USA on September 11, 2001 increased the focus on the Middle Eastern Muslims among these communities. The Iranian community in Sydney, Australia with a large humanitarian intake, is an example of such a small/emerging ethnic community and of the "Others" in general.

The objective of this study is to develop the field work to investigate the impacts of the growing gaps between the western and eastern societies and the exclusion and discrimination experienced on a daily basis by the members of these small, emerging and newly arrived ethnic communities.

The theoretical review plays an important role in the explanation and analysis of the bases for growing gaps between 'East' and 'West', the systematic influence on public policy and public opinion and the resultant impacts on members of the small/emerging communities.

Due to its unique characteristics and its diversity, the Iranian community in Sydney, Australia, has been chosen to represent the above case. The study aims to reveal how the community members' experience of life in Sydney, Australia is shaped by international, national and provincial forces and how, in turn, the community members' respond through their formal and informal networks to related events and policies - throughout the migration and settlement process.